

THE CUT

NEW YORK
A SPECIAL
ISSUE

The Real Story of the CYRUS WOMEN

AND:

VIVIAN WILSON
Comes of Age

SARAH PAULSON'S
Victory Lap

The Temptations of
ANDREW GARFIELD

ALSO:

*Would You Take
Mental-Health Advice
From a Celebrity?*

*Elizabeth Gilbert Breaks
Our Hearts, Again*

Why Everyone Looks 35 Now

From left: Tish
Cyrus-Purcell with
daughters Brandi,
Noah, and
Miley Cyrus.

THEY FELL APART,
CAME BACK
TOGETHER, AND
NEVER STOPPED
DOMINATING
THE CHARTS.
NOW, MATRIARCH
TISH AND
SISTERS
BRANDI,
MILEY,
AND NOAH
LET US IN
ON CYRUS LORE
FOR THE CUT'S
“FAMILY ALBUM.”

MOTHER'S DAUGHTERS

Photographs by Szilveszter Makó

Creative direction by Jessica Willis





TO GET THE WOMEN OF THE CYRUS FAMILY in one room is nothing short of a “miracle,” says Brandi, the eldest daughter. They’re all “freakin’ busy.” This year, Miley released *Something Beautiful*, her ninth album, and its accompanying film; Noah dropped her second album, *I Want My Loved Ones to Go With Me*; and Brandi wrapped a residency at the Las Vegas Sphere in between recording episodes of her podcast, *Sorry We’re Cyrus*, with their mom (and Miley’s manager), Tish Cyrus-Purcell. Though they’ve never exactly been anonymous—Noah’s and Brandi’s early memories are dotted with their sister’s world tours—in recent years, the family name has been a tabloid magnet: rumors about divorces, (re)marriages, love triangles, and sibling rivalries. Well, that’s ancient history. The Cyruses have found their way back to one another—Brandi and Tish supporting Miley at the Grammys, Miley expressing her gratitude for both parents in the press, and Noah co-hosting her family’s podcast. As they banter and reminisce on Tish’s couch in Los Angeles (in full glam, naturally), one thing is clear: You can’t keep the Cyrus women down.

What Gets Them to Mom’s

MILEY: We’re not coming over here to eat; we’re coming over here to get our mom to work. It’s basically like, “Mom, we can’t get anyone to do what we want. We need to shoot this video,” or “I need a bigger budget. You have to call the label. You have to call management.”

TISH: You know what? That’s the way I like it. Let’s talk some business.

MILEY: We’re trying to get Mom to get what we want done because they listen to her.

NOAH: Mom is our go-to. If I’m not calling her, Miley’s calling her five minutes later.

MILEY: And Brandi’s already on the phone; we love merged calls. We’re basically just very needy daughters.

BRANDI: We’ve all gotten to a place where we call each other for stuff.

MILEY: To talk shit about Mom.

NOAH: We love you, Mommy.

On the Menu

MILEY: Dinner at Tish’s is BYOF: You bring your own food.

NOAH: It’s Pillsbury-dough biscuits, packet mashed potatoes.

TISH: No, I don’t do those anymore.

BRANDI: Are we talking Thanksgiving? Because that’s what this is sounding like.

NOAH: Well, when else does Mom cook?

MILEY: Everything’s going to be, like, white or yellow foods; there’s definitely not going to be any greenery on the table. And if you want anything with nutritional value, you have to bring your own. I bring the salad.

TISH: And look how y’all turned out! I did something right. Y’all turned out great.

MILEY: Physically, we’re okay. It’s mentally—

BRANDI: The one year you tried to cook, you cut your finger off.

MILEY: True. That was forever ago. It was a handheld blender—I blended my hand. I cook every now and then. But I wouldn’t say it’s

something Mom really likes to have happen at her house because she likes to keep the kitchen clean and it just makes a bigger mess than she would prefer. But dinners aren’t really our thing.

TISH: No. Although, Noah, you just cooked me dinner the other night, and it was just tacos rolled up in a little lettuce wrap. It was so yummy.

NOAH: It’s my fiancé [*German fashion designer Pinkus*] who cooks all the time. He’s so good. And because he’s European, he makes the best pasta and does it right, where the sauce takes an hour to make or it’s not perfect, with the al dente pasta. I was like, *Alden what? Alden who?* I didn’t know what *al dente* was, but now I’ll even eat edamame and I’ll be like, “Al dente!”

The Family Playlist

BRANDI: I’m the first female artist to ever be a resident at the Sphere. So I’m sleepy, but no stopping. Touring this summer in the U.S., then going to Australia.

MILEY: I don’t miss those days. I’ll be by the pool with the dogs.

BRANDI: I gave Mom a shout-out at the Sphere because I made an edit of a Trisha Yearwood song.

TISH: I helped with the set list. When they were young, I played a lot of Trisha, a lot of country music in the car. And ’80s rock.

MILEY: We listened to everything. We listened to Fleetwood Mac, and Dad likes Eva Cassidy and Etta James.

TISH: And he’d play Lynyrd Skynyrd.

BRANDI: I think the first song I ever learned to play on a guitar was by Merle Haggard. Remember we’d sit around and play that with Dad?

TISH: “Going Where the Lonely Go,” it’s my favorite.

BRANDI: I was an extra on *Hannah Montana*,

PREVIOUS SPREAD

On Tish:

NINA RICCI Coat and Dress, *available upon request.*

On Brandi:

TOM FORD Dress, *at tomford.com.* **JESSICA MCCORMACK**

Earrings, *at jessicamccormack.com.*

SAINT LAURENT

BY ANTHONY

VACCARELLO

Shoes, *at ysl.com.*

On Noah: **FERRAGAMO** Dress, *at ferragamo.com.*

On Miley:

LANVIN Dress and Shoes, *at lanvin.com.*

so they cast me in the *Hannah Montana* tour band as a guitar player. It was my first foray into playing electric guitar. I'd always played acoustic with my dad.

MILEY: My first concert was Warrant, so that says a lot.

ALL: [*Singing*] "She's my cherry pie!"

BRANDI: Mine was Matchbox Twenty.

MILEY: Mom was definitely not taking us to the opera.

TISH: Brandi and I were just talking about how I took both of you—Noah was too little—to Hanson.

MILEY: And you took me to see O-Town, but you made me leave early.

TISH: I did?

MILEY: Because we had school.

BRANDI: No, it was because we got in trouble! I took you into the pit, and she was furious.

MILEY: Oh, she lied and told me that I had school. I said, *Mom, I'll have school 100 days this year; I've got one night to see Ashley Parker Angel.* And she deaded that dream real quick. The kids today, they don't understand what it's like to be in the pit at O-Town in downtown Nashville.

TISH: The fact that O-Town had a pit is insane.

MILEY: It was going down, Mom. The fact that you took your child to see Warrant and my leg got stuck in one of the chairs, and two drunken men picked up her child and put me on their shoulders—I needed to see Warrant. I was like, *Oh man, if only I could see Warrant, this would be so much better.*

NOAH: I was not alive for this. I have no idea.

If They Were a Song

MILEY: Mine would be "The Thing," by the Pixies. Noah, Mom, and I went to Santa Barbara with Braison [*the youngest Cyrus brother*] one time, and we listened to that song the entire way. It was playing while we drove through a strawberry field as a family, and it just really—it marked that memory on my little heart. I have it tattooed on my arm.

TISH: I love that.

MILEY: It was when you were going through something.

TISH: Yes, I was.

MILEY: And the lyric was "My head was feeling scared, but my heart was feeling free." I felt like that was exactly that moment for us as a family.

TISH: I agree. So beautiful.

BRANDI: That was deeper than my song. Mine is "That Don't Impress Me Much," by Shania Twain.

MILEY: Very Brandi energy! You've always been uncompromising, and that's what you should be doing.

TISH: We all know my song is "Cherry Pie." If I'm sad, no matter what's going on—I can be in the worst mood—you put on "Cherry Pie."

MILEY: Mom only listened to Warrant and Prince when Mamie [*Tish's mother*] died. "Little Red Corvette" was burning holes in the tape.

NOAH: I have the cover art for "Against the Wind," by Bob Seger, tattooed on me. It was the last song I sang with our grandma, Mamaw [*Billy Ray Cyrus's mother*], when we were in the hospital.

MILEY: Did she know the lyrics?

NOAH: That was her favorite song, and she was sitting there asking Dad, "Do you remember when the song came out, Billy?" She was reminiscing. I'll always have that memory of laying there with Mamaw and knowing I got to play her one song that gave her so many memories. That was the last song she heard.

MILEY: That's why we want to make impactful music, not music based off numbers. Do you know what number that song was on a chart? I don't. It doesn't matter. But it gave you a memory with your grandmother that no number could ever replace or make more important. And in today's world, music comes and goes so fast that

there aren't very many songs that are released and have that kind of impact on people because they're just so disposable. That's why I always think music should be about memories, not numbers. I don't know what number any Neil Diamond track was on a chart. Nothing from Bob Seger. Nothing from really anyone we've said.

TISH: No, back then, it didn't matter.

MILEY: Numbers are for math and sports, not music.

NOAH: Period.

TISH: I'm just sitting here thinking, *How do I not have cherries tattooed on me?*

MILEY: I'm sure you'll get it. Which "That Don't Impress Me Much" tattoo are you getting, Brandi? YOU MUST BE JOKIN', RIGHT?

NOAH: So many people are pushing out so many songs and so many albums and it's just, *Be a machine right now. Make music for streaming. Make music for—*

TISH: TikTok!

NOAH: TikTok and brain rot. Something that is quick.

MILEY: If you learn anything from your sister, don't be quick and easy.

NOAH: No, don't be quick and easy. That's why for every album I've made, I've taken two and a half years in between. You have to experience life to have things to write about and to offer solace to people.

**TISH: "LOOK HOW
Y'ALL TURNED OUT!
I DID SOMETHING
RIGHT."**

What They've Had to Learn the Hard Way

BRANDI: How long have you got?

NOAH: My last relationship.

TISH: That was a big one.

MILEY: Mom's always wanted me to stay with the wrong guy 'cause they're hot.

NOAH: Honestly, I thought it was going to work with the last one, but it didn't.

TISH: Well, that was great advice because after so many years, you're kind of over it and you're like—

MILEY: What do you mean?

TISH: In a relationship. At least you get to look at somebody that's frigging hot! [*Laughs.*]

MILEY: No, I ended up with a person [*drummer Maxx Morando*] who means a lot to me and treats me really well and respects me. I had to learn that the hard way because my mommy taught me the wrong way and then I had to learn the right way by myself.

NOAH: We are in the same boat.

MILEY: I had to find someone who treats me with respect and then Mom never really put that on the top three of her must-haves. Mom was like, *They need to be tall.*

BRANDI: Well, my man's [*Australian Matt Southcombe*] hot as hell.

MILEY: My man's hot as hell too. But my man also respects me.

BRANDI: Mom also has evolved!

MILEY: That's because she found someone that is hot and respects her. [*Tish married actor Dominic Purcell in 2023.*] That's always the goal. Something else I've had to learn the hard way is constructive criticism. It was really hard for me. Artists that create sculptures or



MILEY:
"MOM'S ALWAYS
WANTED ME
TO STAY
WITH THE
WRONG
GUY 'CAUSE
THEY'RE HOT."

TISH:
"AT LEAST YOU
GET TO LOOK
AT SOMEBODY
THAT'S
FRIGGING
HOT!"

LOEWE Jacket and Pants,
at loewe.com.



LANVIN Dress,
at lanvin.com.

BRANDI: “I WAS IN THE HANNAH MONTANA TOUR BAND. IT WAS MY FIRST FORAY INTO PLAYING ELECTRIC GUITAR.”

paintings, they don’t have the buyer over their shoulder telling them every stroke to create. I like to make music in the same way a painter would, where I paint the painting, then you place it on the wall at a gallery and then it becomes optional for sale. But if the buyer is right over your shoulder, then you’re never actually going to create true art. There’s a line between constructive criticism and freedom in your creativity and artistic expression.

TISH: But guess what Tish does know? A frigging hit.

MILEY: Yeah she does! But Tish just needs the follow-through to get it done ...

TISH: Honey, we followed through. Look at the numbers on “Party in the U.S.A.”

MILEY: I know, I’m just saying that as Tish has gotten in her whimsical era, we have to be behind her a little bit harder, making her get it done. Because before you had love in your life, you had a lot more time to be managing.

TISH: And I was smoking a lot of weed, which was great.

MILEY: The hits were before the weed!

Peace, Love, and Conflict

MILEY: One thing I’ve always loved about our family is that we’re very honorable and respectful of each other’s differences; I think a lot of families get torn apart from their differences. There are similarities between all of us—mostly Mom’s genetics. But when it comes to style, and even our ideas and our views and our opinions, all of us are really respectful toward each other and celebrate each of us having our own identity. Mom has really grown with that too because when you’re a child, it’s the time for a parent to infuse their ideology, but as we’ve gotten older, we’ve found our own opinions and ideas individually. That’s not just about politics—or religion, which we try to not discuss.

NOAH: Especially at Christmas. [*Laughs.*]

MILEY: Not at Christmas! I think all of us have always been really celebratory of our own taste. I might see something that would totally resonate with you, and I know you would love it, and usually I get it for you because it’s—like, a pair of leather chaps. Brandi’s going to need those for DJ-ing. And every shoe in Tish’s closet is because I buy two of everything, one for me and one for Tish, because I just know she’s going to need it. I think all of us are very inspired by fashion, and we use style to say whatever our music is about. I know Noah has to have a western flair.

NOAH: I wanna do booty-shorts merch for my tour this fall. What could we put on booty shorts?

MILEY: A picture of your booty!

NOAH: Something that you’ve done in your music that I’ve been inspired by is how you’re “Versatile-y Cyrus.” Do you not remember Tyra Banks saying that to you? There is an interview of her calling you Versatile-y Cyrus; it’s so funny. And you know what? There was never really ever a time I was embarrassed or didn’t approve of or love what you did. And so even though growing up—

MILEY: Braison was mortified?

NOAH: I’m sure it was different with Braison being a teenage boy, but I just was like, “You better not say anything because she’s sickening.” Who do you think inspired me to dye my eyebrows bleach-blond and fry them off my head for two years? It was Versatile-y Cyrus. Who went from “J’s on her feet” [*Miley’s 2013 feature on the Mike WiLL Made-It song “23”*] to “Malibu”?

MILEY: To Mugler, honey!

NOAH: That’s Versatile-y. So for me, it’s like being able to switch in between records and knowing how to create a world and a vision and an aesthetic that embody your music. We laughed about today’s family portrait, and it’s just like I’m the 1800s haunted child in the castle picture that the eyes move when you walk by.

MILEY: You’ve always been that, even when you were a little girl. Do you remember when Mom got pissed because you went on a red carpet in some Victorian thing? You were wearing, like, vampirecore at 8 years old.

NOAH: Literally in six-inch heels. They were Pleasers.

TISH: I was not in town. This was done without my knowledge.

NOAH: Sky Ferreira would be sending me this picture during the *Bangerz* tour, like, “Inspo for tonight’s show.”

MILEY: Noah’s always been a little fancy, a little dark. My consistency is how inconsistent I am, and I’ve always really admired people who know who they are and know how to wear it on the outside in a consistent way—so not me. My closet is still like that now. My career too. I’m very jealous that Noah’s career has been uniform. When you hear a song and it’s Noah, you know it’s her. For me, it could be “J’s on her feet.”

ALL: [*Singing*] “J’s on my feet ... / J’s on my feet ... / J’s on my feet.”

MILEY: All my music is so different, and I’ve always really admired people who just have a true sense of self because that’s something I haven’t quite found yet.

NOAH: When we were on tour for *Bangerz*, you showed me *American Horror Story*. I became so obsessed, and I feel like that really shaped me.

MILEY: I also showed you Akon and Lady Gaga, which also wasn’t good.

NOAH: [*Singing Akon’s song “Smack That”*] “Smack that, all on the floor!”

MILEY: Noah was literally 10 years old, and everyone was like, “Can you tell your sister to stop doing that? Because it’s not okay.”

NOAH: Do you remember the dance? Five, six, seven, eight: “Smack that, all on the floor / Smack that!”

BRANDI: [*Pointing to Tish*] You were the *Mean Girls* mom.

MILEY: Do you remember the “LoveGame” video that we made on a private plane? I decked Noah out in mirrored sunglasses and made a whole video to Lady Gaga’s “LoveGame,” pretending it was her own private plane, and she’s like 8. She was in the bathroom with Bulgari hand soap.

NOAH: It was the era with those hot-pink sunglasses. I also had, like, no teeth.

MILEY: It was major. The best part was that Noah still had her little lisp, so she would say, “Leth have thome fun, thith beat ith thick / I wanna take a ride on your dithco thtick.” It was so cute. Even though there’s no audio, you can totally see the lisp: “I’m the baddetht bithth that there ever wathh.” Choreography is our tradition. We love to get a “Five, six, seven, eight” going—anything in unison.

BRANDI: Every Christmas, we do a dance.

MILEY: It’s the time that we stop talking about business and lose ourselves in the eight count.

STYLING BY BRADLEY KENNETH. HAIR: CERVANDO MALDONADO. HAIR (NOAH): FITCH LUNAR. MAKEUP: JANICE DAOUD. MAKEUP (NOAH): KENDELL COTTA. SET DESIGN: EDITH DI MONDA. MOVEMENT DIRECTOR: STEPHEN GALLOWAY. TAILOR: SUSIE KOURINIAN. PRODUCTION: YY PRODUCTIONS.

MIU MIU Shirt, Skirt,
and Socks, at miumiu.com.
WING & WEFT Gloves,
at wingweftgloves.com.



DIOR Dress,
available at boutiques.





Cyrus Family Values

TISH: I've learned to be firm and kind because my mom always taught me to treat others as you want to be treated.

NOAH: I think Winnie-the-Pooh said that.

TISH: No, Mamie did. It's in the Bible.

MILEY: And by Winnie-the-Pooh, you mean Jesus.

TISH: It's the Bible, babe.

MILEY: Mom, I need that on a shirt: IT'S THE BIBLE, BABE. But I was also telling you—the kindest thing you can do is to be firm. If you didn't love us, you wouldn't have disciplined us.

TISH: That's also in the Bible.

MILEY: Giving people boundaries is caring about them. Giving your kid boundaries is actually giving them structure, which is putting them in a position to thrive but also to keep them safe. By being firm, you're actually showing people that you love them and you care.

TISH: I know. I do.

**NOAH: "MOM IS
OUR GO-TO.
IF I'M NOT CALLING HER,
MILEY'S CALLING
HER FIVE MINUTES LATER."**

BRANDI: I just always want to make sure I have a purpose in everything I'm doing and not necessarily to make money or to make ends meet or whatever it is. When you lose that is when you start losing your happiness and your joy and your identity.

MILEY: It has to be joyful, meaningful, or lucrative—in that order. Also: Don't mistake the difference between failure and completion. Sometimes you might feel like something is over because it failed, but it might just be over because it's complete. Because even relationships, just because something ended doesn't mean it failed; it just means it is completed. When I was younger, Brandi told me, "Fall for anything, fall for everything." And I always think about that.

BRANDI: Yeah, "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything."

MILEY: How you do anything is how you do everything. If you come to my house, my house is pristine because that's the way that I want to run my business, that's the way I want to have my relationships, that's how I want to be perceived, in pristine form. When someone comes to my house and opens up a drawer and it's junky, I feel like that's a sign of carelessness because I care about what's in my drawer.

NOAH: Don't look in my drawers. ■